

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-14, 16-23, 46, 48-56, 82 and 88-89 are pending. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected the Claims as follows. Claim 88 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, for failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claims 1, 4-14, 16-23, 46, 48-56 and 82 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claims 52-56 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claim 89 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 14 and 16-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0034630 A1 (Mayer) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,434,580 (Takano). Claims 52-56 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over www.inventors.net retrieved from the Internet Archive Wayback Machine (InoNet) in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0249902 (Tadayon) and further in view of Mayer. Claims 1, 4-6, 8-13, 46 and 48-51 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over InoNet in view of Mayer. Claim 88 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over InoNet in view of Mayer and further in view of Tadayon. Claim 82 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mayer in view of InoNet and further in view of Tadayon. Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over InoNet, Mayer, and Tadayon and further in view of U.S. Patent Application No. 2001/0047276 A1 (Eisenhart). Claim 89 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over InoNet in view of Mayer and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,301,574 (Thomas).

Regarding the Examiner's rejection of Claim 88 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, the Examiner states that the recitation of determining by the first computing device a confidentiality level for the proposal for inventions is not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains to make or use the invention without undue experimentation. After reviewing the specification of the present application, it is

respectfully submitted that the Examiner is incorrect. With reference to the Paragraphs beginning at Lines 11 of Pages 30 and 31, respectively, of the present application, a central processing unit (CPU) which uses a heuristic analysis program to weight factors such as, for example, economic gain and level of need for the proposed invention and determine an appropriate confidentiality level is disclosed. For at least the above-stated reasons, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of Claim 88 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, be withdrawn.

Regarding the Examiner's rejection of Claims 1, 4-14, 16-23, 46, 48-56 and 82 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, the Examiner states that there is inadequate support for the recitation of co-inventor qualifications including information related to at least one of a total number of drafting hours, proposals, drafts, and issued patents and further states that this recitation is new matter. After reviewing the present application, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner is incorrect. It is respectfully submitted that the subject recitations are disclosed in the specification of the present application. For example, see, the paragraph beginning at Line 11 of Page 22 and FIGs. 4-5 of the specification of the present application. For at least the above-stated reasons, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of Claims 1, 4-14, 16-23, 46, 48-56 and 82 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, be withdrawn.

Regarding the Examiner's rejection of Claims 52-56 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, the Examiner states that recitation of subscriber qualifications including information relating to at least one of a total number of drafting hours, proposals, drafts, and issued patents is new matter. After reviewing the present application, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner is incorrect. It is respectfully submitted that the subject recitations are disclosed in the specification of the present application. For example, see, the Paragraph beginnings at Line 11 of Page 22 and FIGs. 4-5 of the specification of the present application. For at least the above-stated reasons, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of Claims 52-56 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, be withdrawn.

Regarding the Examiner's rejection of Claim 89 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, the Examiner states "[h]ow is the bidding related to the rest of the steps is claim 1?" It is respectfully submitted that Claim 1, upon which Claim 89 depends, is drawn to a method for supporting the development of inventions by a plurality of inventors, said inventors using a plurality of computing devices connected in a network. Accordingly, Claim 89 includes the recitation of collecting bids and displaying information related to the collected bids using at least one of a pie chart and graph. Thus, supporting that which is recited by at least the preamble of Claim 89. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, of Claim 89 be withdrawn.

Regarding the Examiners rejection of independent Claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), the Examiner states that Mayer does not teach or suggest the recitation of a security system structured and arranged for maintaining records regarding confidentiality levels and authorizing access to secured information, the security system including at least one microprocessor, as recited by Claim 14 and relies upon Takano to cure this deficiency. After reviewing Takano, Applicants respectfully disagree.

Mayer teaches a method and system for matching candidates to available job positions.

The cited passages of Takano teach various input fields such as an inventors name and title of the invention that are input by the inventor (e.g., see, FIG. 3). Takano teaches displaying on a display unit a list of all pieces of the invention report information registered in a specification file management table or only those satisfying a specific condition. In essence, then, Takano teaches a system for conveniently accessing desired information, rather than a security system for preventing unauthorized access to information based upon levels of confidentiality. Moreover, as stated above, Takano teaches that these fields are input by the inventor. In contrast, Claim 14 includes the recitation of a security system structured and arranged for maintaining records regarding confidentiality levels and authorizing access to secured information, the security system including at least one microprocessor, which is neither

taught nor suggested by Takano.

Accordingly, as the combination of Mayer and Takano does not teach each and every limitation of Claim 14, it is respectfully requested that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) of Claim 14 be withdrawn.

Regarding the Examiner's rejection of Claim 52 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), the Examiner states that the combination of InoNet, Tadayon, and Mayer teaches each and every limitation of Claim 52. More particularly, the Examiner acknowledges that InoNet does not disclose the recitation of information on said forum is displayed according to a level of confidentiality, as recited by Claim 52 and relies upon Tadayon to cure this deficiency. After reviewing Tadayon, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner is incorrect.

Tadayon teaches a method for providing a web-based active virtual file system in which information is used to determine whether a user has the right to either read or write, or both read and write, a particular file that already resides on the active virtual file system's disk drive at 152. Tadayon then teaches an authentication method uses an internal user database that is based on user components such as username and password. Basically, Tadayon teaches a system which allows a user to access a server. However, Tadayon does not teach or suggest the recitation of information on said forum is displayed according to a level of confidentiality, as recited by Claim 52.

Furthermore, the combination of InoNet, Tadayon, and Mayer does not teach or suggest the recitation of creating by a first computing device a subscriber list, said subscriber list comprising subscriber records, each of said subscriber records having at least a subscriber name, subscriber contact information, and subscriber qualifications, said subscriber qualifications including information related to at least one of a total number of drafting hours, proposals, drafts, and issued patents corresponding to a subscriber, as recited by Claim 52.

InoNet discloses using inventors for experts and that the names of the experts are not revealed to the client. In other words, a client submits a problem and InoNet prepares a report for the client.

Mayer is discussed above and InoNet discloses using inventors for experts and that the names of the experts are not revealed to the client. In other words, a client submits a problem and InoNet prepares a report for the client.

However, the combination of InoNet, Tadayon, and Mayer does not teach or suggest the recitation of creating by a first computing device a subscriber list, said subscriber list comprising subscriber records, each of said subscriber records having at least a subscriber name, subscriber contact information, and subscriber qualifications, said subscriber qualifications including information related to at least one of a total number of drafting hours, proposals, drafts, and issued patents corresponding to a subscriber, as recited by Claim 52.

Accordingly, as the combination of InoNet, Tadayon, and Mayer either alone or in combination thereof does not teach or suggest each and every limitation of Claim 52, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of Claim 52 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

Regarding the Examiner's rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), the Examiner states that the combination of InoNet, Mayer, and Tadayon teaches each and every limitation of Claim 1. More particularly, even though the Examiner acknowledges that combination of InoNet and Mayer does not teach or suggest the recitation of said subscriber qualifications and said co-inventor qualifications including drafting hours, proposals, drafts, and issued patents, as recited in Claim 1, the Examiner argues that this limitation would be obvious.

After reviewing InoNet, Mayer, and Tadayon, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner is incorrect. First, Applicants are unaware that the recitation of said subscriber qualifications including drafting hours, proposals, drafts, and issued patents, as recited in Claim

1, is obvious. Moreover, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner provide a reference to support her assertion.

Accordingly, as the combination of InoNet, Mayer, and Tadayon, either alone or in combination thereof, does not teach or suggest each and every limitation of Claim 1, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

Regarding the rejection of independent Claim 46 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), Claim 46 includes similar recitations as those contained in Claim 1. Accordingly, Claim 46 is patentably distinct for at least the same reasons as set forth above with respect to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) of Claim 1.

Moreover, Claim 46 includes the recitation of creating by the first computing device a proposal for invention database record, said proposal for invention database record including information relating to a confidentiality level, which is neither taught nor suggested by Tadayon, which is discussed above. Moreover, this deficiency is not cured by either InoNet or Mayer.

For at least the above-stated reasons, the withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) of Claim 46 is warranted.

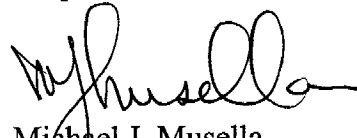
Regarding the rejection of independent Claim 82 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), Claim 82 includes similar recitations as those contained in Claims 1, 14, 46 and 52. Accordingly, Claim 82 is patentably distinct for at least the same reasons as set forth above with respect to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) of Claims 1, 14, 46 and 52. For at least the above-stated reasons, the withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) of Claim 82 is warranted.

Dependent Claims 4-13, 16-23, 48-51 and 53-56, are likewise believed to be allowable by virtue of their dependence on their respective independent claims.

Independent Claims 1, 14, 46, 52 and 82 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Without conceding the patentability per se of dependent Claims 4-13, 16-23, 48-51 and 53-56, these are likewise believed to be allowable by virtue of their dependence on their respective amended independent claims. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of dependent Claims 4-13, 16-23, 48-51 and 53-56 is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, all of the claims pending in the Application, namely, Claims 1, 4-14, 16-23, 46, 48-56 and 82, are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicants' attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Musella", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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